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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**48-HOUR REPORT****26 DECEMBER 2018**

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Contra Costa – Authorities Warn About Scam Involving Social Security Numbers

(U) Contra Costa County prosecutors are warning residents about a scam involving callers asking for a person's Social Security number, according to an announcement last week. The scam involves someone calling and telling an individual that they need to pay a fee to unlock their Social Security number because of criminal activity. The scammers ask individuals to confirm their Social Security number, which the scammers can then use to commit identity theft, prosecutors said. According to prosecutors, officials with the Federal Trade Commission recently confirmed an increase in this type of scam.

SOURCE: 25 December 2018, [The Mercury News](#)

#### (U) Newman – Police Officer Killed During Traffic Stop

(U) A 33-year-old Newman police officer was fatally shot this morning during a traffic stop in Stanislaus County, authorities said. The incident occurred about 1 a.m. near a residential neighborhood at the intersection of Merced Street and Eucalyptus Avenue in Newman, according to the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department. Officer Ronil Singh called out "shots fired" over the radio while he was conducting a traffic stop, authorities said. By the time other officers arrived, the suspect had fled the scene and Singh was lying on the ground with multiple gunshot wounds. A gray, Dodge Ram pickup truck with an extended cab was identified as the suspect vehicle. Authorities released photos of the suspect, a man who was wearing a silver necklace and a black sweatshirt.

SOURCE: 26 December 2018, [SF Gate](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia – TSA Planning Major Shift in Air Marshal Operations

(U) Washington – Federal air marshals are being moved to the back of the plane – some of them, at least. The undercover agents who are posted randomly to protect US airliners are – for the first time – going to be assigned regularly to seats toward the back, sources briefed on the Transportation Security Administration's plans told ABC News. Until now, the marshals were always assigned seats toward the front of the planes. The new deployments are scheduled to go into effect on 28 December. Officials at the TSA, which controls the Federal Air Marshal Service, declined to discuss specifics, citing policies that require operational details to be kept secret. They insisted that it's important for the agency to sometimes change its routine to keep pace with new and emerging threats.

SOURCE: 22 December 2018, [ABC News](#)

### (U) INTERNATIONAL

#### (U) Afghanistan – Militants Attack Government Building Killing Dozens

(U) Kabul – A suicide bomber and extremists armed with assault rifles and explosives attacked a government building in the Afghan capital in an eight-hour-long siege, authorities said. It ended when the three gunmen were killed. Health Ministry spokesman Wahid Majroh said yesterday that 43 people lost their lives, not including the attackers. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The

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Taliban and a local ISIS affiliate have carried out a relentless wave of assaults on government targets in recent years, but the Taliban denied involvement.

SOURCE: 25 December 2018, [CBS News](#)

**(U) China – Man Hijacks Bus, Killed Eight**

(U) Longyan – Police have detained an unemployed man who hijacked a bus in southeastern China after a dispute with a neighborhood official that resulted in eight people being killed, state media reported. The 48-year-old man, with the family name Qiu, hijacked the bus yesterday afternoon in Longyan in the southeastern province of Fujian. The suspect attacked people with a knife, hijacked a bus and used it to hit pedestrians. As well as the eight people killed, 22 others were injured, one seriously, the report said. The government had initially put the death toll at five.

SOURCE: 25 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

**(U) England – Resurgent Al-Qa'ida Looking to Target Planes in Europe**

(U) Sussex – Terror group al-Qa'ida is "resurgent" and looking to carry out attacks on passenger planes in Europe, UK Security Minister Ben Wallace warned in a recent interview. Wallace said al Qa'ida still aspires for aviation attacks and is developing technology to bring down planes. "The aviation threat is real," Wallace said in the interview on Saturday night. "Al-Qa'ida have reorganized. They are pushing more and more plots towards Europe and have become familiar with the new methods." Wallace's statements come amid widespread chaos at Gatwick Airport in the UK over the weekend as rogue drones flying overhead led dozens of flights to be canceled. There is no indication the Gatwick Airport incident is terror-related, Sussex police said earlier in the week.

SOURCE: 24 December 2018, [CNN](#)

**(U) Libya – ISIS Claims Attack on Foreign Ministry in Tripoli**

(U) Tripoli – Three suicide bombers attacked Libya's foreign ministry in Tripoli yesterday, killing at least two other people as well as themselves, authorities said. The attackers began their assault with a car bomb, damaging vehicles and buildings, and then opened fire on the ministry, a security source said. Two managed to get inside and blow themselves up. The other was killed by ministry guards. The health ministry said that apart from the attackers, three people had been killed and at least 21 injured. ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on Libya's Foreign Ministry in Tripoli, the group said today on its news agency Amaq.

SOURCE: 25 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Germany – Police Find ISIS Flag after Suspected Attack on Railway**

(U) Berlin – German police said yesterday they had found a flag of the ISIS militant group near the site of a suspected attack on a railway track in Berlin and that investigators were examining whether the perpetrators had any political motives. It is still unclear whether the flag and a text in Arabic found close to the railway track were left by the same people who damaged the overhead contact wire, police said. A train operator informed the federal police about the incident and local train services were temporarily interrupted, police said. It remains unclear if there is any connection between the Berlin investigation and a similar case in Bavaria where unknown suspects tried to damage or even derail a high-speed train with a steel cable in October.

SOURCE: 25 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

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